

Book Reviews

The Western Journal of Medicine does not review all books sent by publishers, although information about new books received is printed elsewhere in the journal as space permits. Prices quoted are those given by the publishers.

SKELETAL MUSCLE PATHOLOGY—Edited by Frank L. Mastaglia, MD (WA), FRACP, FRCP, Associate Professor of Neurology, University of Western Australia, and Consultant Neurologist, Queen Elizabeth II Medical Center, Perth; and Sir John Walton, TD, MD, DSc, FRCP, Professor of Neurology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Consultant Neurologist, Newcastle Area Hospitals, England. Churchill Livingstone, Inc., 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1983. 630 pages, \$95.00.

This excellent new book provides a timely addition in the area of disorders of voluntary muscle. For a number of years there have been excellent monographs primarily devoted to the clinical aspects of muscle disorders. New editions of these clinical monographs have been completed at frequent enough intervals to keep up with this rapidly expanding area of knowledge. Those texts primarily directed towards the pathologic reactions of skeletal muscle have become quite out of date. *Skeletal Muscle Pathology* is up-to-date and includes descriptions of all of the disorders one would anticipate.

The editors have selected a distinguished group of experts to write this book. Each chapter is well written and relatively concise. The discussions of development, pathologic reactions and aging are particularly informative. The only criticism is directed at the editors who allowed certain topics to be covered in more than one chapter. For example, thyrotoxic periodic paralysis was covered in chapters 8 and 12; carnitine palmityl acyl transferase (CPAT) deficiency in chapters 9 and 10. It is to be hoped that these duplications will be eliminated in future editions.

The illustrations have been carefully selected for both quality and quantity. The electronphotomicrographs are of superior quality, demonstrating a sharpness in contrast not seen in most texts.

This book is highly specialized and not intended for general medical practitioners. Neurologists, pathologists and those persons dealing with patients who have diseases of skeletal muscle will find this a useful and authoritative reference book.

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEUROSCIENCE—VOLUME 6—Edited by W. Maxwell Cowan, Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Annual Reviews, Inc., 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306, 1983. 546 pages, \$27.00.

The sixth volume of the series *Annual Review of Neuroscience* contains a major change in direction. In contrast to preceding volumes, there are no chapters directed to discussion of purely "clinical" topics. This does not mean that this volume is of no interest to clinical neuroscientists and neurologists. In fact, there are chapters which are sure to pique the curiosity of many clinicians. For instance, the article by Penney and Young on the functional anatomy of basal ganglia disorders, while speculative, is well written and thought-provoking. If not directly applicable to the management of patients with these disorders, this discussion may help the clinical neuroscientist to understand patients with these disorders. Raichle's chapter on position tomography is a brief, precise introduction to this potentially powerful diagnostic and research tool.

As in previous editions, this volume contains articles of great interest to basic neuroscientists. Neurophysiologic topics include the microcircuitry of the cat retina and the visual cortex. Of interest to cell biologists are chapters on dopamine receptor

classification and receptor sensitivity modification, on application of molecular biological principles to the study of the nervous system, and on the role of phosphorylation of cellular protein in the regulation of nervous function.

This volume also contains a chapter which should be read by every clinical and basic neuroscientist. This is an essay entitled "Nobel Laureates in Neuroscience, 1904-1981." The authors, Herbert Jasper and Theodore Sourkes, have done a superb job of providing brief yet fascinating accounts of the personalities and work of the most recognized neuroscientists of our century. This essay is readable and well documented. It alone is worth the price of the volume.

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PRACTICAL RHEUMATOLOGY—Edited by Timothy M. Spiegel, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., One Wiley Dr., Somerset, NJ 08873, 1983. 375 pages, \$29.95.

This book is, to use a popular computer-inspired phrase, "reader friendly." The authors have written and organized a book that will be useful to primary care physicians caring for patients with rheumatic complaints.

The book begins with chapters on the general approach to a patient with joint complaints followed by chapters on the more common rheumatologic syndromes. There is a chapter devoted to the rheumatologic laboratory tests in which the basis and mechanics are discussed and, important to primary care physicians, what their rational use is. Recent developments in therapy are included along with helpful advice on patient education and ancillary measures to improve patients' functional capacities. The sometimes confusing topic of vasculitis is presented in a straightforward manner.

Adequate data are presented in the text with interpretation as to their practical value. The written text is well complemented by clear and concise figures and tables. In a few chapters, however, the staccato style detracts from the informational content.

My criticisms are relatively few. In discussing symmetric polyarthritis, a negative example was used that, in fact, fulfills the first two New York criteria for rheumatoid arthritis. There is a misquote of the minor criteria for the diagnosis of systemic sclerosis in the text but the accompanying table is accurate. Occasional therapies are discussed that express a regional bias not balanced by a discussion of the controversies of such treatment. While this may be acceptable for uncomplicated, common rheumatologic problems, I feel it does a disservice to the physician-reader who is faced with more serious manifestations.

Generally speaking, this book accomplishes what it sets out to do. It should prove useful to primary care physicians as long as its limitations are appreciated.

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